

**BOROUGH OF WESTWOOD
WORK MEETING OF THE MAYOR & COUNCIL
MARCH 1, 2016 MINUTES
MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
101 Washington Avenue
7:00 PM Executive Closed Session/8:00 pm Public Session**

1. Opening of the Meeting:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Birkner at 7:30 pm. Mayor Birkner then read the Open Public Meetings Law Statement: "This meeting which conforms with the Open Public Meetings law, Chapter 231, Public Laws of 1975, is a regular Borough Council meeting. Notices have been filed with our local official newspapers and posted on the municipal bulletin board."

2. Roll Call:

Committee Assignments:

Mayor Birkner – Present	
Councilmember Owens – Present	Public Properties
Councilmember Montana – Present	Finance, Administration & Capital Projects
Councilmember Grefrath – Present	Fire & Ambulance; Shared Services
Councilmember Dell - Present	Land Use
Councilmember Arroyo – Present	Police & Emergency Management
Council President Bicocchi - Present	Health & Recreation
Borough Attorney Doyle – Present	
Borough Administrator Kezmarsky - Present	
Borough Clerk Hughes – Present	

3. Resolution #16 - 75: Executive Closed Session

Motion to adopt Resolution #16- 75: Councilmember Arroyo Second: Councilmember Montana

Roll Call: Councilmember Owens - Yes Councilmember Montana - Yes

Councilmember Grefrath – Yes Councilmember Dell - Yes

Councilmember Arroyo – Yes Council President Bicocchi – Yes

4. Reopen the Meeting:

Motion to reopen the meeting: Council President Bicocchi Second: Councilmember Montana

Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative. The time was 8:31 pm.

5. Roll Call II:

Mayor Birkner – Present / Councilmember Owens – Present / Councilmember Montana – Present / Councilmember Grefrath - Present / Councilmember Dell – Present / Councilmember Arroyo - Present / Council President Bicocchi – Present / Borough Administrator Kezmarsky - Present / Borough Attorney Doyle – Present / Borough Engineer Boswell – Present / Borough Clerk Hughes - Present

6. Flag Salute

Mayor Birkner led those present in the salute to the flag.

7. Eagle Scout Presentation

Samuel Cassidy of Hillsdale Troop 109 presented his plan to refurbish the George Washington Memorial Row plaque. The consensus was to endorse the project.

8. Reports of Committees and Officials:

A) Mayor's Report

1) DEP Meeting on Flooding

Mayor Birkner reported on the meeting with DEP Commissioner and officials regarding flooding. Mayor Birkner explained that the Borough isn't expecting to solve the flooding issue but to lessen its impact. The Commissioner was receptive to the Borough's presentation and appreciative of the situation. Mayor Birkner believes the Commissioner understood the Borough's position and will be reevaluating the DEP positions that are primarily focused on water provision.

B) Engineer's Report

1) Biweekly Report

Dr. Boswell reviewed the biweekly report, a copy of which is attached.

2) Washington at Third Crosswalk

Councilmember Arroyo reported that in advance of the Westgate project coming on line, bringing more traffic to the area, he met with Lt. McClutchy and Boswell Engineering on site to observe rush hour. It may be necessary to improve lighting and install pedestrian safety devices at the crosswalk on Washington at Third. Dr. Boswell reviewed various options for traffic calming and pedestrian safety. He noted that enforcement is the most effective method. Mr. Kezmarsky said PSE&G has already been on site and suggested an additional light on the existing pole and adding a pole closer to the street.

Councilmember Arroyo noted that Title 39 does not allow parking in a T intersection. He asked Dr. Boswell to investigate the Hoboken law that allows a municipality to permit parking 25 feet from a stop sign.

C) Council Liaison & Committee Reports

1) Finance, Administration and Capital Projects:

a) Budget Update

Councilmember Montana reported that the Finance Committee met this evening at 6:00 pm. They have reviewed department budget requests and capital requests, and have identified what is achievable. Councilmember Montana asked the Governing Body to confirm their availability for a budget meeting on March 8 at 7:00 pm.

2) Fire and Ambulance; Shared Services:

a) Bergen County Fire Apparatus Loan Program

Councilmember Grefrath advised that the resolution to approve the County fire apparatus loan program would be added to the consent agenda.

b) ByLaws Change

Councilmember Grefrath reviewed the bylaws change, which makes the Council President the liaison to the Westwood Taxpayers Association and Chamber of Commerce. The approving resolution is on the consent agenda.

c) Environmental Committee Update

Councilmember Grefrath reported on the latest Environmental Committee meeting. Lori Charkey of Bergen SWAN asked for volunteers for a bistate water cleanup on April 23rd, and reiterated her

organization's desire to assist and support the rain garden. Rutgers will make their assessment of the proposed location on March 10th. There will be a community garden planning meeting on March 17th. Councilmember Grefrath briefly discussed the farmers market and said Chamber administrator Joe Abou Daoud would have comments during the public forum. Finally, the Environmental Committee is responding to the Clerk's requests regarding Sustainable Jersey.

3) Health and Recreation:

a) Recreation Update

Council President Bicocchi advised that Recreation spring program registration is starting.

b) Broadway Bus Stop

Council President Bicocchi requested that Mr. Kezmarsky look into moving or eliminating the bus stop on Broadway between Washington and Irvington.

c) Chamber of Commerce Sidewalk Sale

Council President Bicocchi advised that the Chamber is looking to hold the annual sidewalk sale.

4) Land Use:

No report.

5) Police and OEM: RA

a) Police Reserves

Councilmember Arroyo said the Police Reserves have requested ballistic vests, since someone with intent to harm a police officer won't differentiate. The police have looked into the grant language but it does not cover the Reserves. He has asked the CFO to find money in the police budget.

6) Public Properties: CO

a) DPW Report

Councilmember Owens reported that the garbage truck motor has failed. Paramus couldn't do the work because it is too extensive. There is a resolution on the consent agenda for the repairs.

D) Attorney's Report

1) Sidewalk Sale

Mr. Doyle recommends using the same resolution as last year for the sidewalk sale because the Borough can't discriminate against non Chamber members.

2) Farmers Market

Mr. Doyle noted there have been noise and parking concerns with the farmers market, and a request regarding fire code permit fees. He recommends no live music at the farmers market to keep the noise level down, and blocking off the far end of St. Nicholas to keep cars out. He noted that fire inspections need to be done every market day to ensure safety. Councilmember Montana asked about the food truck, which does not have the same setup. Mr. Doyle said he'd defer to the Fire Official. Mrs. Hughes expressed concern about licensing the food truck.

E) Administrator's / Clerk's Report

No report.

9. Agenda/Public Forum:

Motion to open Agenda/Public Forum: Council President Bicocchi Second: Councilmember Arroyo

Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the Affirmative.

Joe Abou Daoud, 10 Palisade Avenue, Chamber of Commerce - noted the Chamber had requested signs in the roadway as traffic calmers years ago but Mr. Huntington had said they would prohibit turning. Mr. Abou Daoud said the middle school children walking downtown after school are crossing Washington Avenue with no crossing guard, which he feels is dangerous.

Regarding the farmers market, Mr. Abou Daoud said the hospital is sponsoring it for the second year in a row and would like it to be held in their parking lot. He asked what would be necessary to do so. Mayor Birkner said there is no need for a resolution. Councilmember Owens asked about zoning issues. Council President Bicocchi suggested Mr. Abou Daoud see the Zoning Official on it. Mr. Abou Daoud explained that regarding the fire inspections, he is asking for a fee structure similar to the Health Department's. He wasn't aware of a food truck permit and will work with the Clerk.

Councilmember Montana has heard multiple complaints from merchants that the closure of the streets and non-store-owner participants hurt their business. Several have asked for Sunday instead of Saturday.

Mr. Abou Daoud said he has never brought in any outside vendor that wasn't associated with a Westwood business. There are merchants from the side streets that take spots on the avenue. There are anchor stores that who are against the closure of the street but say they will support it even if it hurts their business because it is good for the community. On Sundays only tent vendors can sell, not brick-and-mortar stores due to the blue laws. Mayor Birkner said the sidewalk sale is an attraction that allows leisurely access to the stores and bring back shoppers.

Helen Guler, 17 St. Nicholas - thanked everyone for hearing her concerns and making the change with the farmers market.

Motion to close Agenda/Public Forum: Council President Bicocchi Second: Councilmember Owens

Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.

10. Presentation of Bills, Financial Reports and Resolutions:

Councilmember Grefrath asked if there were any resolutions to add to the Consent Agenda. He stated that any Councilmembers who wished to remove any Resolution(s) to be voted upon separately could do so at this time, otherwise the Consent Agenda would be enacted in one motion. Resolutions j, k and l were added at this time.

Resolutions as Consent Agenda:

a) Resolution #16 - 76: Bill List & Statement of Cash

b) Resolution #16 - 77: Authorizing Refund of Taxes B202 L15

c) Resolution #16 - 78: Authorizing Refund of Taxes B1408 L17

d) Resolution #16 - 79: Temporary Budget Amendment #3

- e) Resolution #16 - 80: Authorizing the Borough of Westwood to Enter Into Cooperative Pricing Agreement with Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission**
- f) Resolution #16 - 81: Authorizing the Preparation of Specifications for the 2016 Municipal Road Paving Program for the Pascack Valley Cooperative Pricing System #107-PVCPS**
- g) Resolution #16 - 82: Authorizing Repair of Garbage Truck**
- h) Resolution #16 - 83: Authorizing Disposal of Surplus Property by Online Auction**
- i) Resolution #16 - 84: Revising Mayor and Council Bylaws**
- j) Resolution #16 - 85: Appointing Appraisal Systems for ReAssessment Program**
- k) Resolution #16 - 86: Temporary Budget Amendment #2**
- l) Resolution #16 - 87: Authorizing Agreement for Bergen County Fire Truck Loaner Program**

Motion to adopt resolutions #16-76 through #16-87: Councilmember Grefrath

Second: Council President Bicocchi

Roll Call: Councilmember Owens - Yes Councilmember Montana - Yes

Councilmember Grefrath – Yes Councilmember Dell - Yes

Councilmember Arroyo – Yes Council President Bicocchi – Yes

11. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn: Council President Bicocchi Second: Councilmember Dell

Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.

The time was 9:42 pm.

Attest:

(signed) Karen Hughes

Karen Hughes, RMC, Borough Clerk

Proofed by: Denise Holmes, Deputy Clerk